

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

The Commoner for June has the following interesting comment regarding the Democratic platform that will be adopted next week in San Francisco:

No one is in position to announce in advance the subjects that will be treated in the Democratic platform to be written at San Francisco, but I venture to submit an outline with the reasons that lead me to believe that the subjects mentioned will receive consideration.

First—The national administration will be endorsed and the splendid economic reforms secured will be enumerated and emphasized. They constitute an unparalleled record of accomplishment. The conduct of the war will be praised. Mistakes of course were made, but they were overshadowed by colossal achievements that astounded Europe, and even astounded ourselves.

Second—The treaty will present an issue. The party stood together in favor of ratification without reservations, as long as that seemed possible. When it was demonstrated that ratification without reservations was impossible, the Democratic Senators divided into two groups—the members of one group, 23 in number, more interested in the treaty and the League of Nations than in the phraseology of the reservations, joined with 34 Republicans to secure ratification with reservations, while 20 Democrats, preferring defeat of the treaty and the League of Nations, or at least delay, to acceptance of the proposed reservations, joined 17 irreconcilable foes of the treaty to prevent ratification. Unless a compromise is reached before June 28, the convention will endorse the course pursued by the 23, or the course pursued by the 20. The overwhelming opposition to the policy of ratification without reservations, as shown by the vote at the primaries, will probably defeat any effort to make the treaty an issue in the campaign. An easy way out is to pledge the party to an amendment to the constitution providing for ratification of treaties by a MAJORITY vote. The Republicans would undoubtedly support such an amendment, and, both parties accepting it, the Senate could ratify the treaty with reservations already agreed upon, and take it out of the campaign, leaving any needed changes to be made afterward in the League.

Third—In this connection, it is likely that the convention will declare in favor of a cloture rule in the Senate enabling a majority to close debate and proceed to a vote. It was a platform declaration by the Democratic convention of 1908 that put an end to Cannonism in the House of Representatives, and it is time to take another step toward democracy.

Fourth—The convention is quite sure to declare against universal compulsory military training. The Democratic caucus in the House condemned it by a vote of 106 to 17, and a poll of the Senate showed nearly as large a percentage of the Democrats of that body against it. The demand for economy, growing more and more insistent, strengthens the opposition to the expenditure of seven hundred millions a year in preparations for war, while the peace sentiment of the country revolts against a system based on the theory that war is a necessary part of civilization.

Fifth—The profiteer will receive particular attention, especially if the issue is accentuated by failure of the Republicans to deal with the question satisfactorily. Some party must take the people's side against the middlemen, and the Democratic party is in a better position than the Republican party to do so, because the latter contains most of the profiteers.

The following remedies have been suggested, increasing in severity: First, A trade commission in each state and each community empowered to investigate; second, the disclosure of profit on each article sold, and, third, a limitation of profits, as in the case of interest on loans.

The convention is likely to deal with the profiteer also in dealing with the soldiers' bonus, which can be most easily collected by a tax on war profits.

Sixth—The convention will have to deal with the subject of private monopoly.

It is the most permanent domestic issue and the beneficiaries of all the favor-seeking corporations are massing under Republican leadership to oppose government ownership in any and every form. The Democratic party must ultimately become the champion of government ownership of all NATURAL MONOPOLIES but the corporation controlled press has so grossly misrepresented the experience of the government under war control that the opponents of private monopoly may have to content themselves with holding the ground already occupied, leaving the advance to be made by future conventions. But the Democratic convention will at least reiterate the doctrine already embodied in four national platforms; namely, that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable.

Seventh—The labor question will receive the attention due it. The Democratic party will insist upon the toilers' right to equal treatment. He is not only a citizen but he is an indispensable part of our industrial machine. He should be a WILLING WORKER if he is to give to society his maximum effort. He must feel that he is receiving justice. He must be welcomed as a co-worker and dealt with as a brother in the matter of

wages, terms and rights.

Eighth—The farmer also has grievances; his interests can not be made subordinate to the claims of the commercial classes.

Ninth—The Democratic party has already entered upon a good roads program and will extend it. I hope it will extend it sufficiently to endorse a National Peaceway connecting all the states.

Tenth—I am hoping for a plank pledging the party to the advocacy of a government bulletin—not a newspaper, but a bulletin—under bi-partisan control, which will give the voters, for a nominal subscription price, information as to issues before the country with the reasons advanced on both sides of each issue.

Eleventh—Woman suffrage will be endorsed, with congratulations if the amendment is ratified before the convention—with a pledge of support if ratification is not then complete.

Twelfth—Prohibition cannot be ignored. The wets want a plank condemning the prohibition amendment, but it is quite certain that before the convention assembles, they will find their case hopeless. They will then try to prevent any declaration on the subject, pledging for the "harmony" to which they would be indifferent if they could secure a wet plank. But they will not deceive any one.

The drys will insist upon a declaration in favor of the prohibition amendment which has been ratified by every Democratic state and by all but three of the Republican states. They will also insist upon an endorsement of the enforcement law, supported by more than two-thirds of congress.

The convention fights are likely to be over the treaty, the profiteer and the liquor traffic, with the chances in favor of ratification with reservations, and against the profiteer and the saloon.

BOSSISM WINS

Everything said and done at Chicago was based on the theory that Republican success this year is assured. That belief accounts for the platform of blurs and blotches. It explains the nomination of Senator Harding, who could not win a solid delegation in his own state at the primaries. The principal concession to public sentiment was the rejection of Gen. Wood and Gov. Lowden, not because they had used money nor because they were in any way unsatisfactory to the controlling interests, but because they had been found out.

This exposure might have been ignored if the investigation set on foot by Senator Borah had not confirmed it in every detail. The convention yielded to Senator Johnson when it adopted a platform repudiating the League of Nations, and for peace in the party it gave up Wood and Lowden, both highly capitalized, to keep Senator Borah in line; but how is Senator Kenyon's sub-committee, which is to fix its spotlight upon all campaign expenditure until November, to be placated? With that body of cross-examiners hanging on the flank of Big Business, the scandal of the primaries is likely to be intensified before we get to the ballot-boxes.

From all that is known of Senator Harding it must be said that he is an inviting subject for coercion and intimidation. The treaty-wreckers of the Senate have had him in their power for more than a year, although at one time he professed to favor the treaty and the covenant with a few reservations. They have now made his nomination possible and have given him a platform to their own taste which is probably the most perfidious declaration that ever received the endorsement of a great party. A man who has proved so easy in the past is bound to receive repeated visits from a stand-and-deliver faction that is always irreconcilable and always twofisted in its diplomacy.

The concern of the people in all this lies in the fact that they are invited to turn their government over to a party notoriously controlled by selfish interests always subject to political blackmail. Although the two wings of the organization are more hostile today than ever before, there is not sincerity enough in either of them to dissolve an unnatural partnership and follow its honest convictions. Hating each other with indescribable rancor, they both are too greedy of power and place, now thought to be within reach, to risk another separation, and so they continue to do business by terror and trickery.

Mr. Harding's supreme test as a candidate will come when, with the knowledge that the enlightened rank and file of Republicans are not prepared to sacrifice all the moral triumphs of a costly war, the avenging angels of Sinn Feinism and pro-Germanism in the Senate call upon him to endorse and elaborate their policy of scuttling. The calibre of the man and the kind of administration that may be expected of him, if elected, will be revealed by the manner in which he meets that issue.—New York World.

HOWARD COUNTY STIMULATES IMPROVEMENTS

A farmers' co-operative elevator company has been organized at Pearson's Spur, Howard county, with a capitalization of \$12,500, \$7,000 paid up. Officers have been elected and incorporation is under way. The same county is endeavoring to consolidate four school districts in the northeast part of the county to build a rural high school.

LEAGUE TO BE CLEAN-CUT ISSUE, SAYS HOMER S. CUMMINGS

San Francisco, Calif., June 18.—Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said today that while there might be a contest over the League of Nations plank of the platform of principles to be adopted by the Democratic National Convention, there was no doubt that the league issue between the two major parties would be clean cut. Cummings showed that he had no mental reservations when he declared that the acceptance by the Republican National Convention of President Wilson's challenge to have a "great and solemn referendum" on the league exactly suited the Democratic party, and that the San Francisco league plank would be diametrically opposed to the league plank adopted by the Republicans at Chicago.

From all appearances it is to be a Woodrow Wilson convention as far as platform declarations are concerned. That seems to be accepted even by those who make no bones of showing their dislike of the President. Men who have been sounding out sentiment in behalf of William G. McAdoo and A. Mitchell Palmer have encountered that dislike everywhere. They realize that there is a strong undercurrent of opposition among delegates who are already on the ground against the nomination of an administration man for President. But in spite of his feeling against the President and those aspirants for the presidential nomination who are considered as hide-bound administration supporters, the feeling prevails very generally that the President's enemies within the party will not seek to deny him the kind of party platform he wants.

The administration supporters here are very confident that the convention will endorse President Wilson and his policies in a way that will leave no room for dissatisfaction in the President's mind.

Administration Personnel

The personnel of the temporary organization of the convention, announced today, is an administration personnel.

Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is slated for temporary chairman, and Bainbridge Colby, Secretary of State, for permanent chairman. The administration's friends in the National Committee have also decided upon Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, who was Secretary of the Treasury in the Wilson cabinet, for chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, which will draft the platform. The tentative selection of all three of these men was made with the approval of the White House. The election of Cummings and Colby by the convention and Glass by the Committee on Resolutions, will be tentative to an endorsement of the President, it is declared.

The main contest over the platform declarations will involve the prohibition question. William J. Bryan will lead the fight for a flat indorsement of the eighteenth amendment. Bryan made it clear while he was in Chicago attending the Republican National Convention as a writer for a newspaper syndicate that his chief interest at San Francisco would be in the prohibition plank. He also intends to make a strong plea for an outright declaration for woman suffrage and an emphatic condemnation of profiteering. Bryan will cross swords with the administration supporters when the League of Nations question comes before the Platform Committee and the convention. He has not abandoned the position he took in his Jackson Day dinner speech in Washington on January 8, in favor of ratifying the league covenant with reservations. Some of those who claim to understand Bryan's attitude in this respect say that he will be outspoken in his criticism of the President's course with reference to the league.

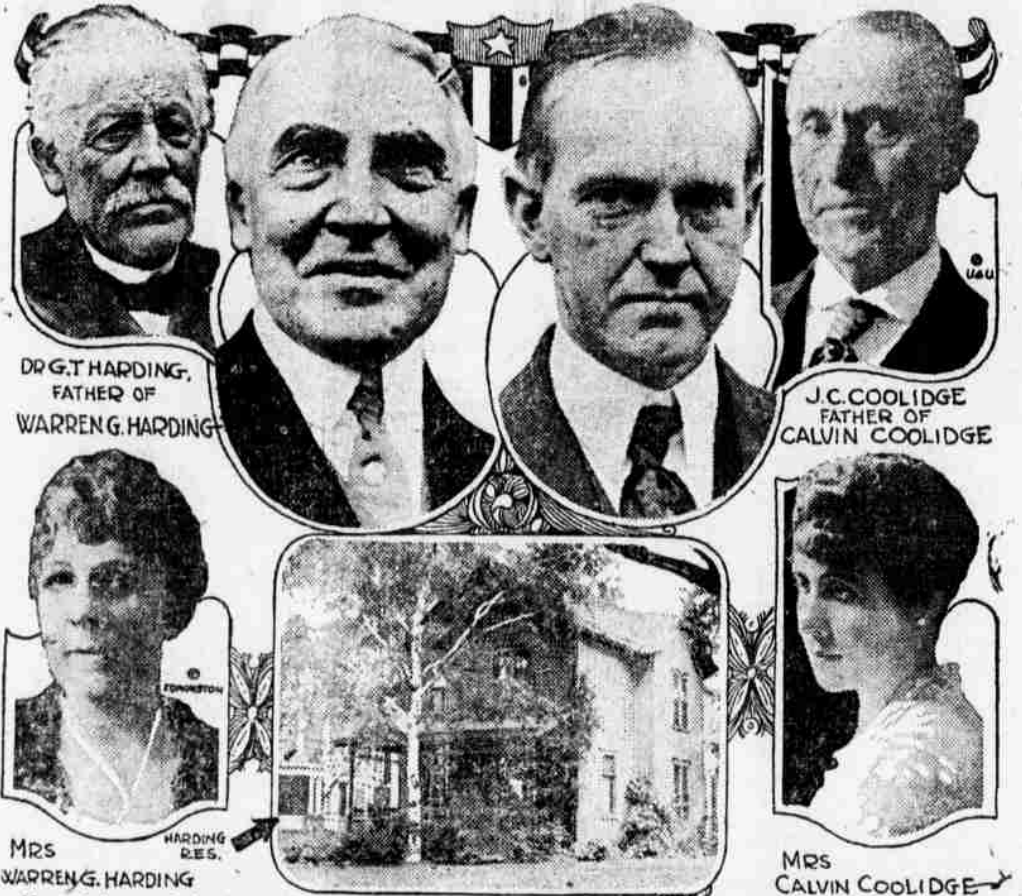
EQUAL PARTY POWER EXPECTED BY WOMEN

San Francisco, Calif., June 18.—Women expect to emerge from the Democratic National Convention here in possession of equal party power and responsibility, and thus far their leaders say they have encountered no opposition. They believe they will be in position to voice a tremendous appeal to enfranchise women to mark their ballots in the Democratic column next fall.

Thus far the women have made no formal arrangements for getting what they want from the convention. Already possession of the equal representation on the Executive Committee of the national committee, which Republican women in Chicago accepted as a compromise for their original demands, the women say all they need do is to make known their desires to the party leaders and to the convention itself.

The principle change for which they are working—they say "agitating" is too strong a word—is the replacement of the woman associate National Committeemen from each state with a National Committeewoman to be in every sense the coequal of the National Committeeman of the State. The women they would have selected in each state by the same machinery which now names the Committeemen. They have no plans for getting this, either. They simply declare Democratic men have always been generous with them and that they cannot fail now to realize the big advantage to be gained from putting the Republican attitude toward their sex to shame.

Two Proudest Daddies and Wives in the U. S.



New pictures of the Republican nominees taken since they were named to lead the ticket—and the proud "I told you so" group of daddies and wives of the two families. The picture of the house is

where the Republican National Committee will conduct its campaign. It is the Christine residence at Marion, Ohio, next door to the home of Senator Harding, plans.

Mrs. Abby Scott Baker of the National Woman's party, explaining today why the picketing at Chicago is not to be duplicated here, said the Republicans were to blame for "having the thirty-sixth suffrage amendment ratification state in stock in their shelves and refusing to give it to us," whereas the Democrats were not in similar possession. The National Woman's party, she said, will try enough appeals to state delegations and individual delegates to induce the convention to bring pressure upon the Democratic states of Louisiana and North Carolina in the hope of inducing one of them to become the thirty-sixth state and thus confer national enfranchisement upon women before the presidential elections.

THE PROFITEER MUST GO

In the June issue of the Commoner, Hon. W. J. Bryan says: The producers and consumers are in no mood to permit the profiteer to continue his exploitation. He is skimming all the cream off the milk. He is not only doing injustice to those whom he is supposed to serve but he is threatening our whole industrial system.

The only test of wages is to be found in their purchasing power. What good does it do to double wages if prices rise still more rapidly? And it is true on the farm as well as in the factory, and adjustments move more slowly on the farm. One can not, when he plants, know the price of the commodity at harvest time. When he begins to feed a calf at weaning time he cannot know what the price of the beef will be three years afterwards when the calf is ready for the butcher. If the middlemen are permitted to exact an unreasonable toll men will be drawn from both farm and factory in trade, and the larger the middle class becomes the larger the burden thrown upon those who till. The higher the percent of profit allowed to those who buy and sell, the harder it will be to persuade the farmer's son to remain on the farm—the more difficult it will be to induce the artisan's sons to follow their father's craft.

Eventually the end must come to this saturnalian feast of greed—"Why not now?" Justice demands that a limit be fixed to the middle man's profit, the very existence of our industrial system demands it. Why delay?

We limit the rate of interest that a banker can charge—and the bankers are honorable men. Why should a manufacturer, wholesaler, or a merchant be allowed to charge without limit?

We need a usury law for business as well as for banking. The unnecessary middleman should be eliminated—the useful middleman should be compelled to serve at a reasonable rate. Justice must not wait.

JOHN BULL PAYS FOR HEALTHY BABIES

John Bull believes that healthy babies make strong men and is willing to pay for them. In 1913 grants made by the national government in support of infant welfare work in England and Wales amounted to about \$1,150,000, which represents one-half of approved expenditure for welfare centers, "health visitors", maternity care and similar work for mothers and children.

The number of health centers increased from 850 in 1917 to 1550 in June, 1919, over one-half of them sup-

ported entirely by public funds. Attendance at the centers has also shown a phenomenal increase. One center in Gloucester, which in 1918 received 263 expectant mothers, had 932 on its roll in 1919.

As a result, it is thought, of public protection of maternity and infancy, the infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1918 is 94.

The 1918 infant mortality rate for the U. S. birth registration area, just published, is 101.7 points higher than the rate for the preceding year.

Children's bureau investigations have shown that Uncle Sam's babies die because they and their mothers do not have skilled care. Until such care is made available, as in England, for all women in all parts of the country, regardless of economic standing, no great decline in the infant mortality rate may be expected.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

Eat Vegetables to Keep Well and Lower the Food Bill.

Are you making daily use of vegetables from your garden? Are you canning them for use next winter. If so, you are helping to keep your family well.

Vegetables should have a place in the meals every day because they contain iron, lime and other minerals which build bones and blood and regulate the work of the body. Vegetables are the cheapest source of minerals and their value in the diet is great.

Housewives often wonder whether it pays to buy vegetables out of season. It is only in rare instances that it is necessary to do this for home grown ones are surely more economical when obtained from the home garden or purchased in season. During the season for a vegetable, it is well to use it fresh and to can, dry or store the surplus. This will furnish vegetables at all times of the year.

Vegetables vary so much in color, flavor and form, that they add variety to our meals. Almost any vegetable can be served for dinner, supper and luncheon while only a few are suited to breakfast. However, unless the vegetables are prepared in different ways, the family tires of them. They may be served raw, boiled, scalloped, creamed, stuffed, baked, in soup and as salad.

The purpose of cooking vegetables is to soften them. Wilted vegetables can be freshened by soaking in cold water for an hour before serving.

When boiling vegetables, the use of a small amount of water is best. A large part of the minerals and some of the food value are lost if the water is drained off and not saved for use.

Vegetables with delicate flavors retain their flavor and food value if cooked by steaming. Strongly flavored ones lose some of their flavor and may taste better if cooked in large amounts of rapidly boiling water.

The time required for cooking depends upon the method of cooking, age, kind, and size of the vegetable. It may be wise to cook the tough part first and add the tender portion later.

Vegetables properly prepared are of great value in our meals. They lower the cost of living and aid in keeping the family well. A step toward good health is taken by the housewife who makes a wide use of vegetables in the meals for her family every day.

Whole Milk for Children

Don't skim the milk for children. Let them have it with the cream. Clean, rich, fresh milk, and plenty of it, makes them grow. It gives them rosy cheeks, bright eyes, strong bodies and good brains. Each child can readily use a quart a day. Refuse the children tea and coffee, but always give them milk. Encourage them to drink it. Put it on their cereals. Pour it on toast. Make it into puddings. Mix it into custards. Stir it into soups. Yes, use milk, and use it freely. Economize on other foods but don't economize on milk.

Household Suggestions

If a grease spot is surrounded with talc powder or cornstarch before gasoline is applied, the powder will absorb the surplus gasoline and prevent a ring forming.

Camphor rubbed on a polished table surface will remove white spots caused by hot dishes.

Cookies and ginger bread made with chicken fat as shortening are more tender and better flavored than when other shortening is used.

If you grease the cup in which you measure molasses every drop will come out.

When melting chocolate, rub the inside of your pan with a little butter before melting chocolate for cake filling. This prevents the chocolate from sticking to the pan and saves much waste when removing the melted chocolate.

One apple coarsely chopped is a very agreeable addition to meat or fish hash.

HOME SWEET HOME

by Jack Wilson

